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From The Press Washington Staff

Water-Polluting Detergents on Way Out

WASHINGTON—Detergents which pollute drinking water are on the way out.

Industry has decided to convert from hard detergents—which resist ordinary sewage treatment—to soft type that can be eliminated from water. They hope to head off legislation pending in Congress.



Crain Chemical Co. starts marketing soft detergents next month, and Sears, Roebuck & Co. will include a box with each washing machine and dishwasher it sells starting Nov. 1.

Next September, five large producers of raw ingredients will start funneling soft materials to manufacturers—and that should speed the changeover.

Petroleum products still will be used as detergent base, along with some coconut oil and tallow. Cost, at the start, may be up a few cents a box, then drop.

As to what you drink in the next two years:

Public Health Service (PHS) says there is no evidence detergent wastes harm humans or fish. Studies are continuing. For one thing, PHS is looking into effect of long-term, low-level ingestion of detergent chemicals on aquatic life. Signs of trouble could be a tip-off to long-range human health hazards.

Word that finally got CIA boss John Richardson out of Viet-Nam came from Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara.

McNamara — after talking with Gen. Paul Harkins (and being told teamwork was impossible with Richardson in Viet-Nam) — tactfully told the CIA man he was "urgently needed in Washington."

The U. S. petroleum industry suspects it will bear the brunt of the grain sale to Russia.

It thinks Russia will now push oil export sales, to recoup foreign currencies it loses buying grain from the West. Oil is Russia's major export item.

Russians have production capacity to launch a big sales push. They've increased their tanker fleet and are building still more. Pipelines to West European borders have been extended.

Russian oil shipments to Italy, West Germany, some other countries increased sharply in the past few years—with oil priced below market levels in many cases, bartered for other products, exchanged for soft currencies. Daily total of 800,000 barrels was exported last year, compared with 350,000 in 1960.

U. S. industry now is watching for a drop in prices that would amount to dumping.

Nurses are being urged to write their congressmen in support of civil rights legislation.

The drive is spearheaded by the American Nurses Assn. which has been seeking since 1946 to eliminate "racial and ethnic segregation and discrimination in nursing."

The association says this results in poorer care for everyone; that maintenance of separate hospital facilities for whites and Negroes "dilutes the number of qualified staff available for employment."

Nursing shortage, it says, is most serious in regions with the most segregated facilities.

Sen. Barry Goldwater and Gov. Nelson Rockefeller have broken off secret, informal talks they held in a try for "GOP unity."

They had met about a dozen times, usually in Washington, and friends of both say the talks were constructive, amiable.

They needed when Rockefeller assailed Goldwater with the "radical right" and called on him to repudiate extremists.

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